

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

WELLINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB, LLC  
d/b/a/ SOUL FITNESS, individually and on  
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

ALLIED WORLD SURPLUS LINES  
INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendant.

No.

COMPLAINT—CLASS ACTION

JURY DEMAND

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Plaintiff, Wellington Athletic Club, LLC d/b/a Soul Fitness (“Plaintiff” or “Soul Fitness”), individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated members of the defined national class, and the defined Washington state subclasses (collectively, the “Class Members”), by and through the undersigned attorneys, brings this class action against Defendant Allied World Surplus Lines Insurance Company (“Defendant” or “Allied World”) and alleges as follows based on personal knowledge and information and belief:

## II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1  
2 1. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to the Class Action Fairness  
3 Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), because at least one member of the proposed Class is a citizen  
4 of a state different from that of Defendant, the proposed Class has more than 100 members, and  
5 the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000. The Court has supplemental  
6 jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367.  
7

8 2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant is  
9 registered to do business in Washington, has sufficient minimum contacts in Washington, and  
10 otherwise intentionally avails itself of the markets within Washington through its business  
11 activities, such that the exercise of personal jurisdiction by this Court is proper. Moreover,  
12 jurisdiction exists because Plaintiff's claims arise out of and directly relate to Defendant's  
13 contacts with Washington. Plaintiff has standing to bring each claim against Defendant as a class  
14 representative whose claims are typical and common of the class under Federal Rule of Civil  
15 Procedure 23.  
16

17 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(3) because the  
18 Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant, a substantial portion of the alleged wrongdoing  
19 occurred in this District and the State of Washington, and Defendant has sufficient contacts with  
20 this District and the State of Washington.  
21

22 4. Venue is proper in the Western District of Washington pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
23 § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims at  
24 issue in this Complaint arose in this District. Plaintiff's place of business is in King County. This  
25 action is therefore appropriately filed in this District.  
26

**III. PARTIES**

5. Plaintiff Soul Fitness owns and operates an exercise gym in Seattle that offers a variety of standard and specialty gym equipment and machines, such as treadmills, stationery bicycles, stair climbers, hand weights, free weights, balls, mats, and punching bags, as well as over thirty-five specially-curated fitness classes per week.

6. Defendant Allied World is an insurance carrier incorporated and domiciled in Arkansas, with its principal place of business in Arkansas.

7. Defendant Allied World is authorized or licensed to write, sell, and issue business insurance policies in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. Defendant conducted business within these states by selling and issuing business insurance policies to policyholders, including Plaintiff.

8. Defendant is vicariously liable for the acts and omissions of its employees and agents.

**IV. NATURE OF THE CASE**

9. Plaintiff Soul Fitness is a gym and in-person exercise facility that offers a combination of live, instructor-led workouts such as kick-boxing, barre, yoga, cardio, and strength training, as well as gym equipment such as rowing machines, treadmills, stationary bicycles, free weights, punching bags, mats, bands, balls, weight machines, and other high-touch exercise equipment and fitness machines for both self-guided and instructor-led use.

10. Prior to the pandemic, at peak hours of operation, Soul Fitness would have up to 100 persons working out at its facility at a time, plus 6-10 staff members.

11. Historic photographs of Soul Fitness below depict portions of its interior, some of its machines and equipment, and some of its group fitness activities:









12. This lawsuit is filed to ensure that Plaintiff and other similarly-situated policyholders receive the insurance benefits to which they are entitled and for which they paid.

13. Defendant issued one or more “all-risk” insurance policies to Plaintiff (the “Policy”), which provide broad property and business interruption coverage.

COMPLAINT—CLASS ACTION - 6

**KELLER ROHRBACK L.L.P.**

1201 Third Avenue, Suite 3200  
Seattle, WA 98101-3052  
TELEPHONE: (206) 623-1900  
FACSIMILE: (206) 623-3384

1           14.     The Policy includes a Building and Personal Property Coverage Form and related  
2 endorsements, with coverages that include Business Income and Extra Expense, Extended  
3 Business Income, Civil Authority, and a Coverage Extension and Special Property Coverage  
4 Form, insuring Soul Fitness’s property, business equipment and machinery, and business  
5 income, with effective dates of July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2020.  
6

7           15.     The Policy described the insured occupancy of the premises as falling under the  
8 “Business Description” of “Health or Exercise Facilities.”

9           16.     The governmental response to the COVID-19 pandemic did not permit any  
10 operations or access to the premises consistent with “exercise facilities.”

11           17.     Plaintiff’s business property includes property owned and/or leased by Plaintiff  
12 and used by Plaintiff and its customers for its specified business purposes, including machine  
13 and equipment-based physical fitness activities, exercise classes, and in-person workouts. Access  
14 to some or all of this property and Plaintiff’s premises was prohibited by the governmental  
15 response to the COVID-19 pandemic.  
16

17           18.     Plaintiff’s business property includes gym equipment such as rowing machines,  
18 treadmills, stationary bicycles, free weights, punching bags, boxing gloves, mats, bands, balls,  
19 weight machines, and other high-touch exercise equipment and fitness machines designed to  
20 increase heart and respiratory rate, and to promote cardiovascular fitness, strength, and  
21 flexibility.  
22

23           19.     Defendant promised to pay Plaintiff for “direct physical loss of or physical  
24 damage to” covered property, and its Policy includes coverages for risks of both “loss of or  
25 damage to” covered property.  
26



1           20.     The Policy expressly defines “Covered Causes of Loss” as meaning “direct  
2 physical loss.”

3           21.     On information and belief, Defendant and affiliated entities owned by the same  
4 parent company issued materially identical policies to thousands of businesses throughout  
5 Washington and in other states.

6           22.     Plaintiff paid all premiums for the coverage when due.

7           23.     On or about January 2020, the United States of America saw its first cases of  
8 persons infected by COVID-19, which has been designated a worldwide pandemic.

9           24.     COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that rapidly and easily spreads; it  
10 continues to spread across the United States, including in the State of Washington.

11           25.     In many infected persons, COVID-19 causes severe illness and requires  
12 hospitalization, including intubation. The virus has killed over 500,000 people in the United  
13 States to date. Persons who survive the virus have experienced ongoing cognitive, neurological,  
14 and physical impacts from the virus, even after the virus is no longer actively detected in their  
15 bodies.

16           26.     The COVID-19 virus is a physical substance that spreads from person to person  
17 through respiratory droplets that reach another person and that are produced when an infected  
18 person breathes, talks, coughs, or sneezes. It also spreads when virus respiratory droplets are  
19 exhaled and aerosolized, and deposited on a surface or object (e.g., weights, exercise equipment,  
20 handles, machinery, door knobs, touch screens, computer keyboards, water fountains, and  
21 writing or eating utensils) and those objects are then touched by another person who then touches  
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1 their own mouth, nose, or eyes. COVID-19 is caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that has not  
2 previously been seen in humans.<sup>1</sup>

3 27. COVID-19 remains stable and transmittable in aerosols for up to three hours and  
4 up to two or three days on certain surfaces. Persons infected with COVID-19 can be  
5 asymptomatic. COVID-19 is spread by breathing, talking, and touching shared or common  
6 objects or surfaces. Guidance issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and  
7 Prevention (“CDC”) recommends avoiding indoor activities, maintaining social distance of at  
8 least six feet between people, and not sharing exercise items such as resistance bands, to slow or  
9 stop the spread of COVID-19.<sup>2</sup>

11 28. Public health data throughout the United States, and on a state-by-state basis,  
12 shows that COVID-19 has been detected in every state.

14 29. The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in King County, and indeed nationwide,  
15 was noted on January 21, 2020.<sup>3</sup>

17 30. Public health data throughout the United States shows the number of COVID-19  
18 tests administered, the rate of positive testing, the numbers of persons diagnosed with COVID-  
19 19, the number of persons hospitalized due to COVID-19, the number of deaths from COVID-  
20 19, and other related statistics, by state, county, and sometimes by city.<sup>4</sup>

22 <sup>1</sup> See, e.g., *Coronavirus (COVID-19): Frequently Asked Questions*, CDC (updated Feb. 25, 2021),  
23 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>.

24 <sup>2</sup> *Coronavirus (COVID-19): Personal and Social Activities*, CDC (updated Feb. 19, 2021),  
25 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/personal-social-activities.html>.

26 <sup>3</sup> Casey McNertney, *Coronavirus in Washington State: A Timeline of the Outbreak Through March 2020*, KIRO 7  
News (updated Apr. 3, 2020, 2:03 AM), <https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/coronavirus-washington-state-timeline-outbreak/IM65JK66N5BYTIAPZ3FUZSKMUE/>.

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., *Coronavirus in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count*, N.Y. Times (updated Feb. 26, 2021, 7:56 AM),  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage> (reflecting COVID-19 statistics, on a state-by-state, county-by-county, and aggregated basis since March 2020).

1           31. As of February 24, 2021, at least 319,498 individuals in the State of Washington  
2 have tested positive for COVID-19, 18,155 have been hospitalized, and 4,942 have died due to  
3 the COVID-19 virus.<sup>5</sup>

4           32. As of February 24, 2021, at least 81,738 individuals in King County have tested  
5 positive for COVID-19, 5,117 have been hospitalized, and 1,390 have died due to the COVID-19  
6 virus.<sup>6</sup>

7           33. The presence of any COVID-19 aerosolized or suspended droplets or particles in  
8 the air or otherwise circulating in an indoor environment renders that physical space, or physical  
9 property within that space, unsafe and unusable.

10           34. The presence of any COVID-19 aerosolized or suspended droplets or particles in  
11 the air or otherwise circulating in an indoor environment causes direct physical damage to  
12 property and/or direct physical loss of property.

13           35. The presence of any COVID-19 droplets or particles on physical surfaces renders  
14 items of physical property unsafe and unusable.

15           36. The presence of any COVID-19 droplets or particles on physical surfaces causes  
16 direct physical damage to property and/or direct physical loss of property.

17           37. The presence of people infected with or carrying COVID-19 particles at premises  
18 renders the premises, including property located at that premises, unsafe and unusable, resulting  
19 in direct physical damage and/or direct physical loss to the premises and property.

20           38. Loss of functionality of property that has not been physically altered constitutes  
21 direct physical loss of property and/or direct physical damage to property.

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26 <sup>5</sup> *COVID-19 Data Dashboard*, Wash. State Dep't of Health (last updated 2/25/21, 5:38 PM),  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

39. Other premises and businesses in close proximity to Plaintiff were closed and suffered direct physical loss. This occurred at least through governmental orders affecting many such places.

40. On February 29, 2020, Washington Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamation 20-05, declaring a State of Emergency for all counties in the State of Washington as the result of the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>7</sup>

41. Thereafter, Governor Inslee issued a series of certain proclamations and orders affecting many persons and businesses in Washington, whether infected with COVID-19 or not, requiring certain public health precautions.

42. Some local agencies acted even more quickly than the state. On February 27, 2020, the Northshore School District closed Bothell High School to completely disinfect the entire school because of concerns about the safety of school property stemming from COVID-19.<sup>8</sup> On March 2, 2020, Everett Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Ian B. Saltzman made a similar announcement closing schools, highlighting that Everett Schools would clean both schools and school buses.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Proclamation 20-05 of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (Feb. 29, 2020),

[https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-05%20Coronavirus%20\(final\).pdf](https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-05%20Coronavirus%20(final).pdf).

<sup>8</sup> See Michelle Reid, *Letter to Families: Bothell High School Closure*, Northshore School District (Feb. 26, 2020),

<https://www.nsd.org/blog/~board/superintendent-blog/post/letter-to-families-bothell-high-school-closure>.

<sup>9</sup> See Ian B. Saltzman, *Superintendent's Message, March 2, 2020*, Everett Public Schools (Mar. 2, 2020),

<https://www.everettsd.org/Page/32622>.

43. Issued March 12, 2020, Proclamation 20-08 closed all public and private K-12 schools in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.<sup>10</sup> Issued March 13, 2020, Proclamation 20-09 extended the school closure to the entire state.<sup>11</sup>

44. As of this filing, K-12 schools in Seattle are still closed.

45. On March 13, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-11, “Statewide Limits on Gatherings,” which prohibited all gatherings of 250 people or more in all Washington counties, including King County.<sup>12</sup>

46. Issued March 16, 2020, Proclamation 20-13 closed theaters, gyms, performance venues, dance studios, bowling alleys, and indoor dining at restaurants.<sup>13</sup>

47. Proclamation 20-13 states that “the COVID-19 disease has and continues to spread quickly across the [S]tate of Washington, beyond the original community outbreaks in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.”<sup>14</sup>

48. Proclamation 20-13 prohibits “any number of people from gathering in any public venue in which people congregate for purposes of . . . fitness and other similar activities.”<sup>15</sup> The proclamation further prohibits “the operation of public venues in which people congregate for entertainment, social or recreational purposes, including but not limited to . . . gyms, fitness

<sup>10</sup> Proclamation 20-08 of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (Mar. 12, 2020),

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-08%20Coronavirus%20%28tmp%29.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Proclamation 20-09 of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, *Statewide K-12 School Closures* (Mar. 13, 2020),

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-09%20Coronavirus%20Schools%20Amendment%20%28tmp%29.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> Proclamation 20-11 of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, *Statewide Limits on Gatherings* at p. 2 (Mar. 13, 2020),

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-11%20Coronavirus%20Gatherings%20Amendment%20%28tmp%29.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> Proclamation 20-13 of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, *Statewide Limits: Food and Beverage Services, Areas of Congregation* (Mar. 16, 2020), <https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-13%20Coronavirus%20Restaurants-Bars%20%28tmp%29.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* at p. 1.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at p. 2.



centers . . . and other similar venues, which prohibition shall remain in effect until midnight on March 31, 2020, unless extended beyond that date.”<sup>16</sup>

49. Proclamation 20-13 states that one of the reasons for its restrictions is that “the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its progression in Washington State continues to threaten the life and health of our people as well as the economy of Washington State, and remains a public disaster affecting life, health, property, or the public peace.”<sup>17</sup>

50. On information and belief, Proclamation 20-13 refers to property damage throughout the State of Washington, including in King County where Plaintiff’s business is located.

51. On March 16, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-14, “Reduction of Statewide Limits on Gatherings,” which prohibited gatherings of fifty people or more in all Washington counties, including King County, and further prohibited gatherings of fewer people unless organizers of such gatherings complied with social distancing and sanitation guidelines.<sup>18</sup>

52. Issued March 19, 2020, Proclamation 20-24 placed restrictions on non-urgent medical and dental services, largely shuttering those offices.<sup>19</sup>

53. On March 23, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-25, “Stay Home – Stay Healthy.”<sup>20</sup> The proclamation, which amends Proclamation 20-05, requires that “[a]ll

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* at p. 3.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* at p. 1.

<sup>18</sup> Proclamation 20-14 of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, *Reduction of Statewide Limits on Gatherings* (Mar. 16, 2020), <https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-14%20COVID-19%20-%20Prohibitions%20on%20Gatherings%20%28tmp%29.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> Proclamation 20-24 of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, *Restrictions on Non Urgent Medical Procedures* (Mar. 19, 2020), <https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-24%20COVID-19%20non-urgent%20medical%20procedures%20%28tmp%29.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> Proclamation 20-25 of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, *Stay Home – Stay Healthy* (Mar. 23, 2020), <https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-25%20Coronavirus%20Stay%20Safe-Stay%20Healthy%20%28tmp%29%20%28002%29.pdf>.

1 people in Washington State [] immediately cease leaving their home or place of residence  
 2 except: (1) to conduct or participate in essential activities, and/or (2) for employment in essential  
 3 business services.”<sup>21</sup> The proclamation prohibits “all non-essential businesses in Washington  
 4 State from conducting business, within the limitations provided herein.”<sup>22</sup>

5 54. Proclamation 20-25 continues a State of Emergency, and states that “the  
 6 worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its progression in Washington State continues to threaten  
 7 the life and health of our people as well as the economy of Washington State, and remains a  
 8 public disaster affecting life, health, property or the public peace.”<sup>23</sup>

9 55. On August 3, 2020, Governor Inslee issued additional restrictions regarding the  
 10 operation of indoor fitness gyms and studios, effective as of August 10, 2020.<sup>24</sup>

11 56. On November 15, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-25.8, “Stay Safe  
 12 – Stay Healthy” “Rollback of County-by-County Phased Reopening Responding to a COVID-19  
 13 Outbreak Surge,” which amended Proclamation 20-05 and 20-25, *et seq.*<sup>25</sup> The proclamation  
 14 again closed restaurants and bars for indoor dine-in service, and decreed, “Fitness Facilities and  
 15 Gyms are closed for indoor operations.”<sup>26</sup>

16 57. Proclamation 20-25.8 also prohibits indoor operations at a variety of business  
 17 locations throughout Seattle and King County and elsewhere in the State of Washington,  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21

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22 <sup>21</sup> *Id.* at p. 3.

23 <sup>22</sup> *Id.* at p. 2.

24 <sup>23</sup> *Id.* at p. 1.

25 <sup>24</sup> Memorandum of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, *Indoor Fitness and Training – Proclamation 20-25, et seq.* (Aug. 3, 2020),  
[https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/COVID19Phase2FitnessMemo.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/COVID19Phase2FitnessMemo.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

26 <sup>25</sup> Proclamation 20-25.8 of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, “*Stay Home – Stay Healthy*” *Rollback of County-by-County Phased Reopening Responding to a COVID-19 Outbreak Surge* (Mar. 23, 2020),  
[https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/proc\\_20-25.8.pdf](https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/proc_20-25.8.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> *See id.* at pp. 3-4.

1 including but not limited to restaurants and bars, bowling centers, movie theaters, museums, and  
2 in-store retail.<sup>27</sup>

3 58. Governor Inslee's proclamations and orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic  
4 (collectively, "the proclamations and orders") have been extended and modified from time to  
5 time.

6 59. By order of Governor Inslee, exercise studios, gyms, and workout facilities,  
7 including Plaintiff's gym, were prohibited from operating their businesses except according to  
8 the terms of the proclamation and orders.

9 60. Plaintiff has complied with the proclamations and orders which have required it to  
10 close, suspend, and/or curtail its business.

11 61. Among other things, Plaintiff complied with the proclamations and orders by  
12 preventing the public, including its customers and employees, from entering its place of business  
13 to participate in business activities such as exercise classes and fitness activities which were  
14 routine and allowed prior to the issuance of the proclamations and orders.

15 62. In order to comply with the proclamations and orders, Plaintiff was forced to  
16 suspend its business and incur extra expense.

17 63. Due to Governor Inslee's orders, beginning on or about March 16, 2020, Plaintiff  
18 was unable to use its physical business tenancy and other insured property therein for their  
19 intended purposes.

20 64. Plaintiff invested in its business property, insured the business property, and  
21 insured the income derived from its business property, but Plaintiff was deprived of its  
22 property's functionality due to the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

1           65.     Loss caused by Governor Inslee's orders and proclamations and/or related to  
2 COVID-19 rendered Plaintiff's property unusable for its intended and insured purpose.

3           66.     Governors and civil authorities in other states have issued similar orders and  
4 proclamations, for similar reasons.

5           67.     Plaintiff's property and covered movable business property have sustained direct  
6 physical loss and/or damage related to COVID-19, property damage related to COVID-19,  
7 and/or the proclamations and orders.

8           68.     Plaintiff's property will continue to sustain direct physical loss or damage covered  
9 by the Policy, including but not limited to business interruption, extra expense, interruption by  
10 civil authority, and other expenses.

11           69.     Plaintiff suffered direct physical loss of use of the covered properties for its  
12 intended purposes.

13           70.     As a result of the above, Plaintiff has experienced and will experience loss  
14 covered by Defendant's Policy.

15           71.     Plaintiff's suspension of its business in response to the proclamations and orders  
16 caused Plaintiff to suffer a business loss.

17           72.     Plaintiff complied with all requirements in the Policy.

18           73.     Plaintiff filed a claim with Defendant for its losses covered by the Policy in or  
19 about March 2020.

20           74.     Defendant denied coverage to Plaintiff by letter dated May 11, 2020.

21           75.     Defendant made no meaningful investigation of Plaintiff's claim or its loss.

22           76.     Defendant's letter denying coverage to Plaintiff, states in part:



1 The Insured presents a claim for loss of business income. The Insured estimates it  
2 [sic] losses to date as \$114,000, although that is subject to change as the mandated  
3 closure continues. In order to resume full or partial operations, the government  
4 mandated shutdown needs to be lifted. The Insured notes it has been unable to  
5 mitigate its damages as result of the mandated shutdown.

6 77. Upon information and belief, Defendant has denied all claims submitted to it for  
7 business income coverage that relate to governmental proclamations or orders and/or COVID-19.

8 78. Upon information and belief, Defendant has undertaken no meaningful  
9 investigation regarding whether there is any presence of COVID-19 at Plaintiff's insured  
10 premises.

11 79. Upon information and belief, Defendant has undertaken no meaningful  
12 investigation regarding the timing, scope, or impact of governmental proclamations or closure  
13 orders that affect its insured's business or business property.

14 80. Upon information and belief, Defendant has undertaken no meaningful  
15 investigation regarding the community spread of COVID-19 in the vicinity of Plaintiff's  
16 business.

17 81. Upon information and belief, Defendant has denied and will deny coverage to  
18 Plaintiff and all other similarly situated policyholders based on Defendant's uniform policy to  
19 deny business interruption claims stemming from government closure orders related to COVID-  
20 19.

21 82. Defendant's across-the-board coverage denials are not consistent with its policy  
22 language and with its obligations to investigate losses arising under its policies. Courts have  
23 found coverage or reasonable grounds for coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic in one or  
24 more ways, including based on (1) the actual or potential presence of virus in the air in the  
25 vicinity of the policyholder's business; (2) the necessity of modifying physical behaviors through  
26

1 the use of social distancing, avoiding confined indoor spaces, and/or not congregating in the  
 2 same physical area as others; (3) governmental orders requiring that physical spaces such as the  
 3 policyholder's business be shut down or that other property not be used for its insured business  
 4 purposes; and/or (4) the need to mitigate the threat or actual physical presence of virus on door-  
 5 handles, tables, silverware, surfaces, equipment, in heating and air conditioning systems and any  
 6 other places where virus may be found.  
 7

## 8 V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

9 83. This matter is brought by Plaintiff on behalf of itself and those similarly situated,  
 10 under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(b)(1), 23(b)(2), and 23(b)(3).

11 84. The Classes that Plaintiff seeks to represent are defined as:

12 A. ***Business Income Breach of Contract Class:*** All persons and entities in  
 13 the United States issued an Allied World policy with Business Income Coverage who  
 14 suffered a suspension of their business at the covered premises related to COVID-19  
 15 and/or orders issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors, and/or other civil authorities  
 16 and whose Business Income claim has been denied by Allied World.  
 17

18 B. ***Business Income Declaratory Relief Class:*** All persons and entities in the  
 19 United States issued an Allied World policy with Business Income Coverage who  
 20 suffered a suspension of their business at the covered premises related to COVID-19  
 21 and/or orders issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors, and/or other civil authorities.  
 22

23 C. ***Extended Business Income Breach of Contract Class:*** All persons and  
 24 entities in the United States issued an Allied World policy with Extended Business  
 25 Income Coverage who suffered a suspension of their business at the covered premises  
 26 related to COVID-19 and/or orders issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors, and/or

1 other civil authorities and whose Extended Business Income claim has been denied by  
2 Allied World.

3 D. ***Extended Business Income Declaratory Relief Class:*** All persons and  
4 entities in the United States issued an Allied World policy with Extended Business  
5 Income Coverage who suffered a suspension of their business at the covered premises  
6 related to COVID-19 and/or orders issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors, and/or  
7 other civil authorities.  
8

9 E. ***Extra Expense Breach of Contract Class:*** All persons and entities in the  
10 United States issued an Allied World policy with Extra Expense Coverage who sought to  
11 minimize losses from the suspension of their business at the covered premises in  
12 connection with COVID-19 and/or orders issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors,  
13 and/or other civil authorities and whose Extra Expense claim has been denied by Allied  
14 World.  
15

16 F. ***Extra Expense Declaratory Relief Class:*** All persons and entities in the  
17 United States issued an Allied World policy with Extra Expense Coverage who sought to  
18 minimize losses from the suspension of their business at the covered premises in  
19 connection with COVID-19 and/or orders issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors,  
20 and/or other civil authorities.  
21

22 G. ***Civil Authority Breach of Contract Class:*** All persons and entities in the  
23 United States issued an Allied World policy with Civil Authority Coverage who suffered  
24 a suspension of their business at the covered premises related to COVID-19 and/or orders  
25 issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors, and/or other civil authorities and whose  
26 Civil Authority claim has been denied by Allied World.

1           H.     **Civil Authority Declaratory Relief Class:** All persons and entities in the  
 2     United States issued an Allied World policy with Civil Authority Coverage who suffered  
 3     a suspension of their business at the covered premises related to COVID-19 and/or orders  
 4     issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors, and/or other civil authorities.

5           85.     Excluded from the Classes are Defendant's officers, directors, and employees; the  
 6     judicial officers and associated court staff assigned to this case; and the immediate family  
 7     members of such officers and staff. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the Class definitions  
 8     based on information obtained in discovery.

9           86.     This action may properly be maintained on behalf of each proposed Class under  
 10    the criteria of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

11           87.     **Numerosity:** The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all  
 12    members would be impractical. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each proposed Class has  
 13    hundreds of members. The precise number of Class Members can be ascertained through  
 14    discovery, which will include Defendant's records of policyholders.

15           88.     **Commonality and Predominance:** Common questions of law and fact  
 16    predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Class. Common  
 17    questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

18           A.     Whether the Class Members suffered covered losses based on common  
 19    policies issued to members of the Class;

20           B.     Whether Allied World acted in a manner common to the Class by  
 21    wrongfully and uniformly denying claims for coverage relating to COVID-19 and/or  
 22    orders issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors, and/or other civil authorities on the  
 23    same grounds and/or otherwise in breach of the law of contracts;



C. Whether Business Income Coverage in Allied World’s policies of insurance applies to a suspension of business relating to COVID-19 and/or orders issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors, and/or other civil authorities;

D. Whether Extended Business Income Coverage in Allied World’s policies of insurance applies to a suspension of business relating to COVID-19 and/or orders issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors, and/or other civil authorities;

E. Whether Extra Expense Coverage in Allied World’s policies of insurance applies to efforts to minimize a loss at the covered premises relating to COVID-19 and/or orders issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors, and/or other civil authorities;

F. Whether Civil Authority Coverage in Allied World’s policies of insurance applies to a suspension of business relating to COVID-19 and/or orders issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors, and/or civil authorities;

G. Whether Allied World has breached its contracts of insurance through a blanket denial of all claims based on business interruption, income loss or closures related to COVID-19 and/or orders issued by Governor Inslee, other Governors, and/or other civil authorities;

H. Whether, because of Defendant’s conduct, Plaintiff and the Class Members have suffered damages; and if so, the appropriate amount thereof; and

I. Whether, because of Defendant’s conduct, Plaintiff and the Class Members are entitled to equitable and declaratory relief, and if so, the nature of such relief.

89. **Typicality:** Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of the members of the classes. Plaintiff and all the members of the classes have been injured by the same wrongful

1 policies and practices of Defendant. Plaintiff's claims arise from the same policies, practices, and  
2 course of conduct that give rise to the claims of the members of the Class and are based on the  
3 same legal theories.

4       90.     **Adequacy:** Plaintiff will fully and adequately assert and protect the interests of  
5 the classes and has retained class counsel who are experienced and qualified in prosecuting class  
6 actions. Neither Plaintiff nor its attorneys have any interests contrary to or in conflict with the  
7 Class.  
8

9       91.     **Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(1), the Risk of Inconsistent or Varying**  
10 **Adjudications and Impairment to Other Class Members' Interests:** Plaintiff seeks  
11 adjudication as to the interpretation, and resultant scope, of Defendant's policies, which are  
12 common to all members of the class. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members  
13 of the classes would risk inconsistent or varying interpretations of those policy terms and create  
14 inconsistent standards of conduct for Defendant. The policy interpretations sought by Plaintiff  
15 could also impair the ability of absent Class Members to protect their interests.  
16

17       92.     **Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2), Declaratory and Injunctive Relief:**  
18 Defendant acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to Plaintiff and other members  
19 of the proposed class making injunctive relief and declaratory relief appropriate on a classwide  
20 basis.  
21

22       93.     **Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3), Superiority:** A class action is  
23 superior to all other available methods of the fair and efficient adjudication of this lawsuit. While  
24 the aggregate damages sustained by the classes are likely to be in the millions of dollars, the  
25 individual damages incurred by each Class Member may be too small to warrant the expense of  
26 individual suits. Individual litigation creates a risk of inconsistent and/or contradictory decisions

1 and the court system would be unduly burdened by individual litigation of such cases. A class  
 2 action would result in a unified adjudication, with the benefits of economies of scale and  
 3 supervision by a single court.

## 4 VI. CAUSES OF ACTION

### 5 Count One—Declaratory Judgment

6  
 7 *(Brought on behalf of the Business Income Declaratory Relief Class, Extended*  
 8 *Business Income Declaratory Relief Class, Extra Expense Declaratory Relief Class, and Civil*  
 9 *Authority Declaratory Relief Class)*

94. Previous paragraphs alleged are incorporated herein.

10 95. This is a cause of action for declaratory judgment pursuant to the Declaratory  
 11 Judgment Act, codified at 28 U.S.C. § 2201.

12 96. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of the Business Income Declaratory  
 13 Relief Class, Extended Business Income Declaratory Relief Class, Extra Expense Declaratory  
 14 Relief Class, and Civil Authority Declaratory Relief Class.

15 97. Plaintiff seeks a declaratory judgment declaring that Plaintiff and Class Members'  
 16 losses and expenses resulting from the interruption of their business are covered by the Policy.

17 98. Plaintiff seeks a declaratory judgment declaring that Allied World is responsible  
 18 for timely and fully paying all such claims.

### 19 Count Two—Breach of Contract

20  
 21 *(Brought on behalf of the Business Income Breach of Contract Class, Extended*  
 22 *Business Income Breach of Contract Class, Extra Expense Breach of Contract Class,*  
 23 *and Civil Authority Breach of Contract Class)*

24 99. Previous paragraphs alleged are incorporated herein.

102. Plaintiff has paid its insurance premiums.

104. Defendant denied Plaintiff's claim for coverage.

106. Denying coverage for the claim is a breach of the insurance contract.

107. Plaintiff is harmed by the breach of the insurance contract by Allied World.

1. Class action status under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

3. A declaratory judgment that the Defendant is responsible for timely and fully paying all such losses.

#### 4. Damages.

5. Pre- and post-judgment interest at the highest allowable rate.



6. Reasonable attorney fees and costs.
7. Such further and other relief as the Court shall deem appropriate.

### VIII. JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all claims so triable.

DATED this 1st day of March, 2021.

KELLER ROHRBACK L.L.P.

By: s/ Amy Williams-Derry

By: s/ Lynn L. Sarko

By: s/ Ian S. Birk

By: s/ Gretchen Freeman Cappio

By: s/ Irene M. Hecht

By: s/ Gabriel E. Verdugo

By: s/ Nathan L. Nanfelt

Amy Williams-Derry, WSBA #28711

Lynn L. Sarko, WSBA #16569

Ian S. Birk, WSBA #31431

Gretchen Freeman Cappio, WSBA #29576

Irene M. Hecht, WSBA #11063

Gabriel E. Verdugo, WSBA #44154

Nathan Nanfelt, WSBA #45273

1201 Third Avenue, Suite 3200

Seattle, WA 98101

Tel.: (206) 623-1900

Fax: (206) 623-3384

Email: [awilliams-derry@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:awilliams-derry@kellerrohrback.com)

Email: [lsarko@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:lsarko@kellerrohrback.com)

Email: [ibirk@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:ibirk@kellerrohrback.com)

Email: [gcappio@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:gcappio@kellerrohrback.com)

Email: [ihecht@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:ihecht@kellerrohrback.com)

Email: [gverdugo@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:gverdugo@kellerrohrback.com)

Email: [nnanfelt@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:nnanfelt@kellerrohrback.com)

By: s/ Alison Chase

Alison Chase, *pro hac vice* forthcoming

801 Garden Street, Suite 301

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Tel.: (805) 456-1496

Fax: (805) 456-1497

Email: [achase@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:achase@kellerrohrback.com)

*Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed  
Classes*

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